



General Assembly

January Session, 2005

***Raised Bill No. 6953***

LCO No. 4765

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Referred to Committee on Education

Introduced by:  
(ED )

***AN ACT CONCERNING BEST PRACTICES.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1       Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2005*) The Department of  
2       Education shall establish a Connecticut Student Achievement  
3       Guarantee program for local and regional school districts that choose  
4       to participate in order to raise student achievement in schools serving  
5       low-income communities. The program shall require participating  
6       school districts to (1) reduce the student to teacher ratio to fifteen  
7       students per teacher in grades kindergarten to three, inclusive, (2)  
8       strengthen academic curricula designed to improve pupil academic  
9       achievement, (3) implement professional development programs,  
10      including participation in the Principal Training Academy and  
11      accountability measures for staff, (4) keep school buildings open  
12      longer hours to accommodate before and after-school programs, (5)  
13      collaborate with community organizations to make educational and  
14      recreational opportunities as well as a variety of community and social  
15      services available in the school to all school district residents, (6) work  
16      with relevant state agencies to establish home visitation programs for  
17      at-risk children, and (7) establish programs to include students and

18 their parents in educational accountability contracts. The Department  
19 of Education shall provide each participating school district with an  
20 amount equal to two thousand dollars multiplied by the number of  
21 low-income students enrolled in grades kindergarten to three,  
22 inclusive, in participating school districts.

23 Sec. 2. Subsection (b) of section 10-66cc of the general statutes is  
24 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
25 *1, 2005*):

26 (b) The governing council of each charter school shall submit  
27 annually, to the Commissioner of Education, at such time and in such  
28 manner as [he] the commissioner prescribes, and, in the case of a local  
29 charter school, to the local or regional board of education for the school  
30 district in which the school is located, a report on the condition of the  
31 school, including (1) the educational progress of students in the school,  
32 (2) the financial condition of the school, including a certified audit  
33 statement of all revenues and expenditures, (3) accomplishment of the  
34 mission, purpose and any specialized focus of the charter school, [and]  
35 (4) the racial and ethnic composition of the student body and efforts  
36 taken to increase the racial and ethnic diversity of the student body,  
37 and (5) best practices employed by the school to contribute  
38 significantly to the academic success of students.

39 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2005*) The Department of Education  
40 shall, annually, combine and assemble as a report all of the best  
41 practices reported by governing councils of charter schools pursuant to  
42 subdivision (5) of subsection (b) of section 10-66cc of the general  
43 statutes, as amended by this act, and distribute such report to the  
44 governing council of each charter school.

45 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2005*) A network that is established to  
46 advance the goals of public charter schools in this state shall, in  
47 consultation with the Department of Education, organize an annual  
48 symposium on best practices employed by public charter schools to  
49 contribute significantly to the academic success of students.

50       Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2005*) The Department of Education  
 51 shall, in consultation with a network that is established to advance the  
 52 goals of public charter schools in this state and other organizations for  
 53 school reforms, establish a Connecticut School Reform Resource  
 54 Center. The center shall operate year-round and focus on serving the  
 55 needs of all public schools. The center shall (1) assemble and  
 56 disseminate documentation on best practices employed by schools to  
 57 contribute significantly to the academic success of students, (2)  
 58 develop new school leadership, (3) develop models for evaluations of  
 59 student performance, assessment and data management, (4) train new  
 60 school board members, (5) offer support services for charter school  
 61 development, (6) offer facility support, and (7) offer technical  
 62 assistance, information sharing and aid with fundraising grants  
 63 resource development. The center shall work collaboratively with  
 64 other resource centers nation-wide and incorporate the most effective  
 65 initiatives from other states. The center shall solicit funding from  
 66 private foundations.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2005</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2005</i>	10-66cc(b)
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2005</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2005</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2005</i>	New section

***Statement of Purpose:***

To encourage the employment of best practices in schools to contribute significantly to the academic success of students.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*